SI. No,	States	Allocation 2000-01	2001-02
23.	Sikkim	2811.00	3798.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	10479.00	11736.00
25.	Tripura	5083.00	7084.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	33635.00	37671.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1256.00	3907.00
28.	West Bengal	16782.00	18796.00
	TOTAL:	246520.00	280259.00

New policy for voice mail

*635. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced a new policy for voice mail/audiotex services;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the number of licences granted so far for the said services;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is no licence fee for the service; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) New policy for Voice Mail/Audiotex Service in terms of new Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) was announced on 16th July, 2001 by incorporating a new service namely, Unified Messaging Service (UMS) Salient features of the policy are given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(c) Presently, 27 licences are existing for these services out of which 22 licences have been granted since announcement of the new policy.

(d) There is no licence fee for operators of this service other than access service providers. However, the Licensee shall be required to

pay levy towards Universal Service Obligations (USO) from the date of licence as per the terms and conditions decided by the Government on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) has defined Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers, Fixed Service Providers and Cable Service Providers as Access Providers. Access Service Providers may provide Voice Mail/Audiotex/UMS to the subscribers falling within their service area on non discriminatory basis, without the need for obtaining a separate licence for Voice Mail/Audiotex/UMS, and the revenue earned by these operators through this Service, if any, shall be counted towards the revenue for the purpose of paying license fee under the Licence granted to them.

(e) Government have decided not to charge any licence fees from operators of this service as these service providers are content service providers and not telecommunication carriage service providers or network operators.

Statement

Salient Features of the Policy on Voice Mail/Audiotex Service/ Unified Messaging Service

1. Any Indian Company can obtain license on nonexclusive basis. There is no limit on the number of licensees.

2. Area	— Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) From outside the SDCA, the service will be allowed to be accessed on Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) call basis.
3. Entry	— NIL
4. License Fee	— NIL However, Licensee is required to pay levy towards Universal Service Obligation (USO) from the date of licence as per the terms and conditions decided by the Government on the recommendations of TRAI.

5. Performance Bank guarantee Rs. 3 Lacs

6. Foreign Direct Investment — 100% allowed.

7. Period of License — 15 years and may be extended by 5 years subject to certain conditions.

8. Cellular Mobile Service Operators, Fixed Service operators, and Cable Service Operators can start the said service without the need for obtaining any additional license.

9. For providing Unified Messaging Service (UMS) under the license, the Licensee must also have an Internet Service Provider (ISP) Licence in the same area proposed to be covered by the UMS Service.

10. Licensee shall make its own arrangements for all infrastructure involved in providing the service and shall be solely responsible for installation and operation of necessary equipment and systems, treatment of subscriber complaints, issue of bills to its subscribers, collection of revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of their operations

Damage to Gurdwaras

*636. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Sikh Gurdwara has been demaged in any foreign country as a reaction to Gujarat happenings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.